

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 223561
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:N A VELIOTES:JD

APPROVED BY P:P C HABIB

NEA:A L ATHERTON, JR.

O:R. PERITO

-----003210 170040Z /62

O 170017Z SEP 77 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 223561

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HABIB; WHITE HOUSE FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, US, PLO, XF

SUBJECT: PLO-U.S. RELATIONSHIP

REF: DAMASCUS 5866

1. PLEASE CONTACT DAOUDY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCOURAGE
POSSIBILITY THAT ARAFAT MIGHT TRANSMIT LETTER TO PRESIDENT
CARTER VIA PRIME MINISTER KHADDAM DURING KHADDAM'S VISIT
TO WASHINGTON. YOU SHOULD TELL DAOUDY THAT, WHILE LETTER
MIGHT HAVE THE ADVANTAGES THAT WERE DISCUSSED, ON REFLECTION
THERE ARE STRONG DISADVANTAGES THAT OUTWEIGH THEM. GIVEN
FACT THAT PLO HAS NOT AS YET RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO OUR
OFFER OF DIRECT TALKS IF PLO ACCEPTS RESOLUTION 242 AND
RIGHT OF ALL STATES IN AREA (INCLUDING ISRAEL) TO EXIST,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 223561

ANY LETTER FROM ARAFAT WOULD COMPLICATE SITUATION EVEN
FURTHER. SHOULD SUCH A LETTER BE FORTHCOMING, PRESIDENT
WOULD BE PUT IN EMBARRASSING POSITION WHICH CRITICS OF OUR
MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS COULD INTERPRET AS ESTABLISHING
"DIRECT CONTACT" DESPITE FACT PLO HAS NOT ACCEPTED RESOLU-
TION 242. ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR PRESIDENT NOT TO ACCEPT
LETTER, WHICH WOULD PUT SYRIANS IN EMBARRASSING POSITION

WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID.

2. FYI. IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO AVOID GIVING SYRIANS
THE IMPRESSION THIS IDEA WAS REJECTED IN WASHINGTON,

IF YOU THINK IT NECESSARY TO DO
SO IN DISCOURAGING LETTER IDEA, HOWEVER, YOU MAY SAY THIS
IS DEPARTMENT'S REACTION. END FYI.

3. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION WITH DAOUDY, YOU SHOULD ALSO
REITERATE THAT OUR VIEW IS THAT THE BALL REMAINS CLEARLY
IN COURT OF PLO AND ARAB STATES. OUR POSITION REMAINS
AS EXPRESSED PUBLICLY BY PRESIDENT CARTER ON AUGUST 8
AND AS DISCUSSED SUBSEQUENTLY WITH ASSAD BY SECRETARY
VANCE. THE UNITED STATES WILL IMMEDIATELY ENTER INTO
OFFICIAL DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE PLO SHOULD THE PLO
ACCEPT 242, ETC. FYI. OUR POSTURE SHOULD BE SUCH
AS TO MAKE CLEAR WE ARE NOT RPT NOT COURTING PLO BUT
RATHER RESPONDING TO REPEATED ARAB URGINGS THAT WE
ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH PLO BY SUGGESTING WAYS IN WHICH
THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PLO'S
PROBLEMS WITH RES. 242 - HENCE OUR SUGGESTION RE
ACCEPTING 242 WITH APPROPRIATE RESERVATION. END FYI.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PEACE TALKS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, US, XF, SY, PLO
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